

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis in a patient in need of such treatment which comprises intermittently administering an effective amount of a bisphosphonate to the patient, wherein the period between administrations of bisphosphonate is from ~~[at least about]~~ 2 months up to about 4 months.

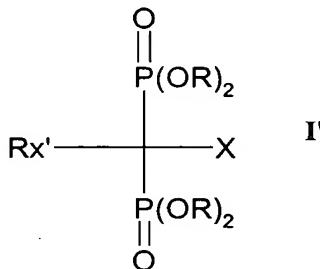
Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) A kit for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis comprising ~~[one or]~~ one or more unit doses, each comprising an effective amount of a bisphosphonate, according to a dose regimen for intermittent administration at intervals from ~~[at least about]~~ 2 months up to about 4 months to a patient in need of such treatment.

Claim 4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the bisphosphonate dosing interval is from about once every 80 days to about once every 100 days.

Claim 5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the bisphosphonate dosing interval is about once every 90 days or annual calendar quarter.

Claim 6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the bisphosphonate is a compound of formula I'



wherein

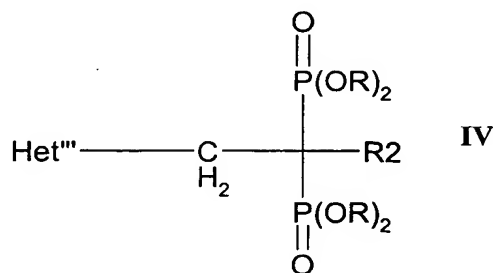
X is hydrogen, hydroxyl, amino, alkanoyl, or an amino group mono- or disubstituted by C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl and

Rx' is a side chain which contains an optionally substituted amino group, or a nitrogen containing heterocycle (including aromatic nitrogen-containing heterocycles),

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof or any hydrate thereof.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, in which the bisphosphonate is a compound of formula IV



wherein Het''' is an imidazolyl, 2H-1,2,3-, 1H-1,2,4- or 4H-1,2,4-triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiazolyl or thiadiazolyl radical which is unsubstituted or C-mono- or di-substituted by lower alkyl, by lower alkoxy, ~~[bx]~~ by phenyl which may in turn be ~~{monon-}~~ mono- or disubstituted

Claim 8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, in which the bisphosphonate is 1-hydroxy-2- (imidazol-1-yl)ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or any hydrate thereof.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A method according to claim 8 in which 5mg doses of zoledronic acid or salt thereof (dose based on free acid) are administered once every three months.